

What is claimed is:

1. An edge protector adapted for protecting edges and corners of an article or reinforcing the corners of a container when positioned therein, said edge protector comprising:

5 a blank sheet of foldable material having a top side and a bottom side;

a plurality of parallel fold lines scored into said sheet and laterally spaced to divide said sheet into five consecutive panels hinged together at the fold lines to allow for easy folding of the panels into overlapping engagement;

a first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels two and three so  
10 that the top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel three;

a second leg intersecting said first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels one, four, and five so that the top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel four, and the top side of panel five is placed  
15 in face-to-face contact with the bottom side of panel one; and,

an adhesive included between the face-to-face contact of panels two and three, panels one and four, and panels one and five for securing the panels in overlapping engagement to maintain said first and second legs in a fixed folded arrangement with each other.

20 2. The edge protector of claim 1 wherein panels three and four are of equal width and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width each having a width less than panels three and four individually.

3. The edge protector of claim 2 wherein panel one has a width less than the width of panel two.

4. The edge protector of claim 3 wherein panel five has a width greater than the width of panel one and panel two individually.

5 5. The edge protector of claim 1 wherein said first leg and said second leg intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

6. The edge protector of claim 1 wherein said blank sheet of foldable material comprises corrugated paperboard.

7. The edge protector of claim 1 wherein the fold line scored between  
10 panels one and two is scored on the bottom side of the sheet and the rest of the fold lines are scored on the top side of the sheet.

8. The edge protector of claim 1 including a double score fold line connecting panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to  
15 be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded into overlapping engagement with panel one, the double score allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.

9. A method of preparing a box edge protector comprising the steps of:  
providing a blank sheet of foldable material having a top side and a bottom  
20 side;

scoring a plurality of laterally spaced parallel lines into said sheet so that said sheet is divided into five consecutive panels hinged together at the fold lines to allow for easy folding of the panels into overlapping engagement;

folding the sheet at the fold line between panels two and three to overlap panels three and four with panels one and two so that the top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel three, and the top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel four;

- 5        folding the sheet at the fold lines between panels one and two, and, three and four, so that panels two and three form a first leg intersecting with a second leg formed by panels one and four;

- folding the sheet at the fold line between panels four and five so that the top side of panel five is placed in face-to-face contact with the bottom side of panel one  
10    for locking the first and second legs in position.

10.    The method of claim 9 including the step of scoring the fold line between panels one and two on the bottom side of the sheet and scoring the rest of the fold lines on the top side of the sheet.

11.    The method of claim 9 including the step of folding the sheet at the fold  
15    line between panels one and two to form approximately a 90° angle between panels one and two prior to folding panel two into overlapping engagement with panel three.

12.    The method of claim 11 including the step of folding the sheet at the fold line between panels three and four to form approximately a 90° angle between panels three and four prior to folding panel one into overlapping engagement with  
20    panel four.

13.    The method of claim 9 including the step of placing an adhesive on the top side of panels three, four, and five prior to folding for securing the panels in overlapping engagement when folded.

14. The method of claim 9 including the step of spacing the score lines so that panels three and four are of equal width and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width each having a width less than panels three and four individually.

15. The method of claim 14 including the step of spacing the score lines so  
5 that panel one has a width less than the width of panel two.

16. The method of claim 15 including the step of spacing the score lines so that panel five has a width greater than the width of panel one and panel two individually.

17. The method of claim 9 including the step of arranging said first leg and  
10 said second leg to intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

18. The method of claim 9 including the step of scoring a double score fold line between panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded into overlapping  
15 engagement with panel one, the double score allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.

19. An edge protector adapted for protecting edges and corners of an article or reinforcing the corners of a container when positioned therein, said edge protector comprising:

20 a blank sheet of foldable corrugated paperboard having a top side and a bottom side;

a plurality of parallel fold lines scored into said sheet and laterally spaced to divide said sheet into five consecutive panels with the fold line between panels one

and two scored on the bottom side of the sheet and the rest of the fold lines scored on the top side of the sheet;

said panels divided by said fold lines so that panels three and four are of equal width, and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width with each having a width less than panels three and four individually, and wherein panel one has a width less than the width of panel two, and panel five has a width greater than the width of panel one and panel two individually, so that the panels are hinged together at the fold lines to allow for easy folding of the panels into overlapping engagement;

a first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels two and three so that the top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel three;

a second leg intersecting said first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels one, four, and five so that the top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with the top side of panel four, and the top side of panel five is placed in face-to-face contact with the bottom side of panel one; and,

an adhesive included between the face-to-face contact of panels two and three, panels one and four, and panels one and five for securing the panels in overlapping engagement to maintain said first and second legs in a fixed folded arrangement with each other.

20. the edge protector of claim 19 wherein said first leg and said second leg intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

21. The edge protector of claim 19 wherein said blank sheet of foldable material comprises corrugated paperboard.

22. The edge protector of claim 19 including a double score fold line connecting panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded into overlapping engagement with panel one, the double score allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.

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